

Exhibits

At the U.S. Botanic Garden, we are committed to creating and offering extraordinary exhibits that delight, educate and inspire the public to become more active stewards of the plants that support life on earth.

Seasonal Exhibits

[Carniverous Plants Featured at USBotanic Garden](#) (photos)

Georgetown

By Jeff Malet | June 18th 2012 | The United States Botanic Garden's exhibit on carnivorous plants will run through October 8, 2012.

Savage Gardens: The Real and Imaginary World of Carnivorous Plants

May 26 through October 8, 2012

Conservatory Terrace, East Gallery and the National Garden



Carnivorous plants fascinate

with how they lure, catch, kill and digest insects. Feed your senses with the captivating, the bizarre, the larger-than-life, real and imaginary world of carnivorous plants. *Savage Gardens* tells the story of their astounding adaptations to inhospitable habitats.

See beds full of carnivorous plants and a live bog garden to get immersed in the fascinating world of these adaptive plants. Combining science, botany and hands-on activity, *Savage Gardens* demonstrates the wonders of these unique plants and the importance of preserving the delicate environments in which they live.

Carnivorous plants may seem exotic, but many of them, such as the Venus flytrap (*Dionaea muscipula*), are native to North America. Unfortunately, more than 95 percent of the original carnivorous plant habitats along the U.S. southeast coastal plain have been destroyed.

The exhibit wouldn't be complete without the infamous Venus flytrap (*Dionaea muscipula*), and visitors can control the bizarre muscle-like movement of its traps in action. Other carnivorous plants will fascinate as well with their creative, cunning and tenacious trapping strategies. The innocent-looking flower of the Butterwort (*Pinguicula*) is surrounded by leaves that glisten with the strongest "glue" found in nature. The Sundew (*Drosera*), embraces insects with shimmering, dew-like tentacles. The American Pitcher Plant (*Sarracenia*) offers a narcotic nectar causing intoxicated patrons to take a clumsy tumble into a pool of digestive enzymes. The similar approach of some larger varieties of the Tropical Pitcher Plant (*Nepenthes*) has

been known to capture small mammals.

If the allure of live meat-eating plants is not enough, four larger-than-life sculptures provide a bugs-eye perspective of four carnivorous plants:

- The 10-feet-tall Tropical Pitcher Plant (*Nepenthes*) invites visitors to step inside to imagine the fate of an unlucky insect.
- Seven North American Pitcher Plant (*Sarracenia*) sculptures reach heights of 15 feet and their brilliant color is illuminated from within.
- The 9-feet-tall Venus flytrap (*Dionaea muscipula*) sculpture replicates the closing of the "trap" through the use of hydraulics.
- The Sundew (*Drosera*) comes to life as fiber optics illuminate more than 500 hundred of the sculpture's tentacles.



Join us this summer to find out much more about the world of carnivorous plants!

Watch time lapse video of sundew trapping a fruit fly

Holly Morris visited the U.S. Botanic Garden for the new Savage Garden exhibit

Tom Sherwood visits Savage Garden

Permanent Exhibits

- **Conservatory:** The permanent exhibits in our Conservatory will take you around the world all year long. It houses collections of plants from subtropical, tropical and arid regions and showcases orchids, medicinal, economic, endangered and Jurassic plants. From late May to mid-October, the Conservatory Terrace features thematic exhibitions.
- **National Garden:** Our newest outdoor garden, the National Garden features the Regional Garden of Mid-Atlantic native plants, the Rose Garden - all grown organically - devoted to the U.S. national flower, the Butterfly Garden and the First Ladies Water Garden, whose intricate patterns are inspired by the Colonial-era quilt pattern known as "Martha Washington."
- **Bartholdi Park:** Bartholdi Park, a favorite "secret" garden of Washingtonians, is across Independence Avenue from the Conservatory. Here

visitors will find a tapestry of theme gardens surrounding the historic Bartholdi Fountain. The gardens suggest interesting plants and innovative designs at a scale suitable for the home landscape.

Exhibit Archive

- *Slow Life* is a window into the world of plants. It accelerates the time-scale of plants into our own frame of reference, speeding up their everyday lives to a pace that resonates with our own. This online guide to the lives of plants is based on the traveling exhibit developed by the U.S. Botanic Garden, Chicago Botanic Garden and Indiana University.
- The advent of book publishing ushered in an exuberant age of plant exploration and discovery. *Plants in Print: The Age of Botanical Discovery*, a collaboration between the U.S. Botanic Garden and the [Chicago Botanic Garden](#), shares the rich history of botany and plant exploration with a nationwide audience.
- Titan Arum: *Amorphophallus titanum* is known as the Titan arum, or corpse flower, because at full bloom, the inflorescence is said to smell like a large rotting corpse. You'll find photos and information about the Titan arum that bloomed at the U.S. Botanic Garden in 2003.

Source URL: <http://www.usbg.gov/exhibits>